This course introduces the role and history of photography, beginning with the St. Louis World's Fair, representations of San Francisco's Chinatown, and artistic activities that took place in camera clubs in Los Angeles and Seattle between 1850-late 1940s. The course concludes with a focus on art practices of contemporary artists who engage photography and conceptualism. The primary task of the course will be to develop visual literacy reading a photograph and familiarize students with different genres of photography and debates surrounding photography and its relationship to power, truth, race, and identity. Topics that the course will cover include the Japanese American Internment, immigration, Orientalism, documenting and deconstructing Asian American histories and memories, war, U.S. citizenship, community, identity, and the body.

Course assignments include a weekly journal, class participation, and a final paper or creative project that combines words and images.

Questions? Email Prof. Min at ssmin@ucdavis.edu

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